UNITED
NATIONS

A

General Assembly

Distr.
GENERAL

A/48/512
20 October 1993

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

Forty-eighth session
Agenda item 3

CREDENTIALS OF REPRESENTATIVES TO THE FORTY-EIGHTH SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

First report of the Credentials Committee

Chairman: Mr. Nitya PIBULSONGGRAM (Thailand)

1. At its 1st plenary meeting, on 21 September 1993, the General Assembly, in accordance with rule 28 of its rules of procedure, appointed a Credentials Committee for its forty-eighth session consisting of the following Member States: Austria, Bahamas, China, Côte d'Ivoire, Ecuador, Mauritius, Russian Federation, Thailand and United States of America.

2. The Credentials Committee held its first meeting on 14 October 1993.

3. Mr. Nitya Pibulsonggram (Thailand) was unanimously elected Chairman.

4. The Committee had before it a memorandum by the Secretary-General, dated 13 October 1993, on the status of credentials of representatives to the forty-eighth session. The memorandum indicated that, as at 13 October 1993, credentials issued by the Head of State or Government or by the Minister for Foreign Affairs, as provided in rule 27 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, had been submitted by 118 Member States (Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Andorra, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belgium, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Canada, Cape Verde, Central African Republic, Chile, Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Egypt, Estonia, Ethiopia, Finland, France, Gabon, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Guinea, Guyana, Haiti, Hungary, Iceland, Indonesia, Iraq, Ireland, Israel, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kuwait, Latvia, Lesotho, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Malta, Marshall Islands, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Philippines, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Romania, Russian Federation, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sudan, Suriname, Swaziland, Sweden,

Thailand, Tunisia, Turkmenistan, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Zaire, Zambia and Zimbabwe). The Legal Counsel informed the Committee that, subsequent to the preparation of the memorandum, additional credentials in due form had been received in respect of the representatives of one Member State (China).

5. The Legal Counsel explained to the Committee that the Secretary-General's memorandum related solely to the Member States participating in the work of the forty-eighth session of the General Assembly that had submitted formal credentials for their representatives in accordance with rule 27 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly. The Legal Counsel indicated that at a later stage the Secretary-General would report to the Committee on the credentials of representatives of Member States participating in the forty-eighth session whose formal credentials had not yet been received at the time of the Committee's first meeting. Noting that the memorandum indicated that formal credentials had been submitted for the representatives of Zaire, the Legal Counsel informed the Committee that those credentials had been signed by the Head of State of Zaire. Another communication had been received which contained a list of purported representatives of Zaire but which had not been signed by the Head of State or issued in his name. In keeping with past practice of the General Assembly and the Committee, the credentials signed by the Head of State were to be regarded as formally correct.

6. The representative of Austria stated that, though not wishing to formally challenge the credentials of Zaire, his delegation wished to place on record its position, which was analogous to that of the European Community and its member States. Acceptance of credentials of a Zaire delegation headed by the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Government of Mr. Faustin Birindwa in no way implied that Austria accepted that Government, which had been formed from political conclaves composed exclusively of representatives from the presidential side, without the approval of the High Council of the Republic and therefore outside the transition process defined by the sovereign national conference.

7. The representative of the United States of America stated that, while in agreement with the report of the Secretary-General and aware of the technical nature of the task of the Credentials Committee, he wished to associate himself with the disclaimer made by the representative of Austria.

8. The Chairman proposed that the Committee should adopt the following draft resolution:

"The Credentials Committee,

"Having examined the credentials of the representatives to the forty-eighth session of the General Assembly of the Member States referred to in the memorandum of the Secretary-General dated 13 October 1993,

"Taking into account the statements made during the debate,

"Accepts the credentials of the representatives of the Member States concerned."

9. The draft resolution proposed by the Chairman was adopted without a vote.

10. The Chairman then proposed that the Committee should recommend to the General Assembly the adoption of a draft resolution (see para. 12). The proposal was adopted without a vote.

11. In the light of the foregoing, the present report is submitted to the General Assembly.

RECOMMENDATION OF THE CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE

12. The Credentials Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

Credentials of representatives to the forty-eighth session of the General Assembly

The General Assembly,

Having considered the first report of the Credentials Committee and the recommendation contained therein,

Approves the first report of the Credentials Committee.